



Central Missouri Sampler

Cities: Boonville, Columbia, Jefferson City, Fulton, Hermann

Day 1 – Boonville, Columbia, Jefferson City

Your tour begins in Boonville at **Warm Springs Ranch**. Warm Springs Ranch is a breeding and training farm for the Budweiser Clydesdales, resting on 300-plus acres of lush, rolling hills in the heart of Missouri. Established in 2008, it features a mare/stallion and foaling barn, veterinary lab and 10 pastures, each with a customized, walk-in shelter. The facility is home to more than 70 Clydesdales ranging from foals. Whether you choose a guided tour or a V.I.P. tour, here's your chance to go behind the scenes at Warm Springs Ranch and get up close and personal with the Clydesdales! Explore their 25,000-square-foot facility and find out what it takes to breed a legend. www.warmspringsranch.com

Next, travel on to **Columbia**, Missouri www.visitcolumbiamo.com

Shelter Gardens consists of five acres containing over 300 varieties of trees and shrubs and more than 15,000 annuals and perennials. The garden has 14 features, including a waterfall, rock garden, Vietnam veterans' memorial, replica 19th century one-room school house, and garden for the blind.

Arrive at **Historic Missouri Theatre**. The Missouri Theatre is central Missouri's only pre-depression era movie palace and vaudeville stage. Built in 1928 and designed after the Paris Opera House, the theatre is listed on the National Historic Register. The theatre underwent a complete renovation/restoration in 2008, bringing it back to its original 1928 glory. The Columbia Art League is now housed with the Missouri Theatre, combining visual and performing arts in a beautiful and historic environment.

Depart Columbia for **Jefferson City**. www.visitjeffersoncity.com

Columbia to Jefferson City, 32 miles

Decommissioned in 2004, the **Missouri State Penitentiary** is now open to the public for history and paranormal tours. Before it closed, MSP was the oldest continually operating penitentiary west of the Mississippi. The prison was 100 years old when Alcatraz began taking inmates. When this prison opened in 1836, the Battle of the Alamo was going on in Texas and Andrew Jackson was in his second term as president. The tour showcases cells including those of famous inmates such as heavyweight champion Sonny Liston, who learned to box during his time in the big house, and James Earl Ray. Other stops on the tour are the gas chamber where 40 men and women were executed, the buried cells, several housing units and the upper yard. In 1967, Missouri State Penitentiary was infamously named the "bloodiest 47 acres in America" by *Time* magazine because of the incredibly high number of serious assaults on the grounds between 1963-1964. Operates March to November. Tours include complimentary admission to the neighboring **MSP Museum** which houses memorabilia from behind the walls (open weekdays).

www.missouripentours.com

Stop at **Central Dairy**. Central Dairy was established in Columbia in 1920 by Dot Sappington, who opened a branch in Jefferson City in 1932. The ice cream parlor is an excellent stop any time of year and is known as a longtime favorite of locals and many throughout the Midwest.

Overnight: Jefferson City

Day 2 – Jefferson City, Fulton

Missouri State Capitol. Completed in 1917, the Capitol covers three acres in downtown Jefferson City. Inside the Capitol you will find the Missouri State Museum which features exhibits of outstanding historical significance. The 45-minute guided Capitol tour is the best way to experience the historic and decorative features of the building. www.mostateparks.com/park/missouri-state-museum

Jefferson City to Fulton, 24 miles

Travel on to **Fulton** to the **National Churchill Memorial & Library**, a national historic site in the United States located on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. The Museum is composed of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Aldermanbury, an English Church designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1667, with an undercroft museum hosting permanent exhibits dedicated to the life and works of Sir Winston Churchill - who made his famous "Iron Curtain" Speech on the Westminster Campus in 1946.

The Churchill Museum also houses the Clementine Spencer Churchill Reading Room - composed of works about the life of Sir Winston Churchill, the Harris Research Library for Microfilm - holding an extensive collection of Microfilm from the British National Archives, many changing exhibits of interest, and a gift shop containing gifts related to Churchill and the Wren Church. The grounds are also home to a piece of the Berlin Wall. Allow 2 hours for this visit. You can also make arrangements for an organ performance in the church or private reception for your group (extra fee). www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org

Auto World Museum contains exhibits and collections of vintage cars, memorabilia and attractions depicting the history surrounding the automobile. There is something of interest for everyone at Auto World Museum!
www.autoworldmuseum.com

Return to Jefferson City for overnight.

Day 3 – Hermann

Jefferson City to Hermann, 48 miles

After breakfast, depart Jefferson City for **Hermann**. www.visithermann.com
Nestled among the rolling hillsides of the Missouri River, in a countryside reminiscent of Germany's Rhine Valley, is the little town of Hermann. Specialty tours can include shopping tours, village tour with music or a visit to **Swiss Meat and Sausage Company**. The arts and crafts of yesteryear are well preserved at **Historic Hermann Museum**. Built in 1871, the building the museum is housed in served as Hermann's elementary school until 1955. The town clock has been operating since 1890. www.historichermann.com

While in Hermann, enjoy lunch and wine tasting at **Stone Hill Winery**. The winery offers tours of the largest series of underground cellars in North America. Their **Vintage Restaurant** is situated on the winery grounds in a beautifully restored carriage house and horse barn. Here you can enjoy a hearty menu of German cuisine, along with steaks and other American dishes.
www.stonehillwinery.com

Hermann Living History Farm and Museum offers over 160 years of farming experience, exhibits of early trades, and history on its nearly 200 acre living history farm. Guests will experience first-hand what early settlers did when they first reached mid-Missouri. Tours include the restored Hussmann home and outbuildings, trading post, distillery log house and office, sweet springs, tinsmith shop and gardens. Also included are demonstrations by the Shire draft horses and Missouri mules. Tram Rides are available to see more of the farm and its place in history. www.hermannfarm.com

Depart for home with rich memories of Central Missouri's gems!